

Increasing the Debt Limit

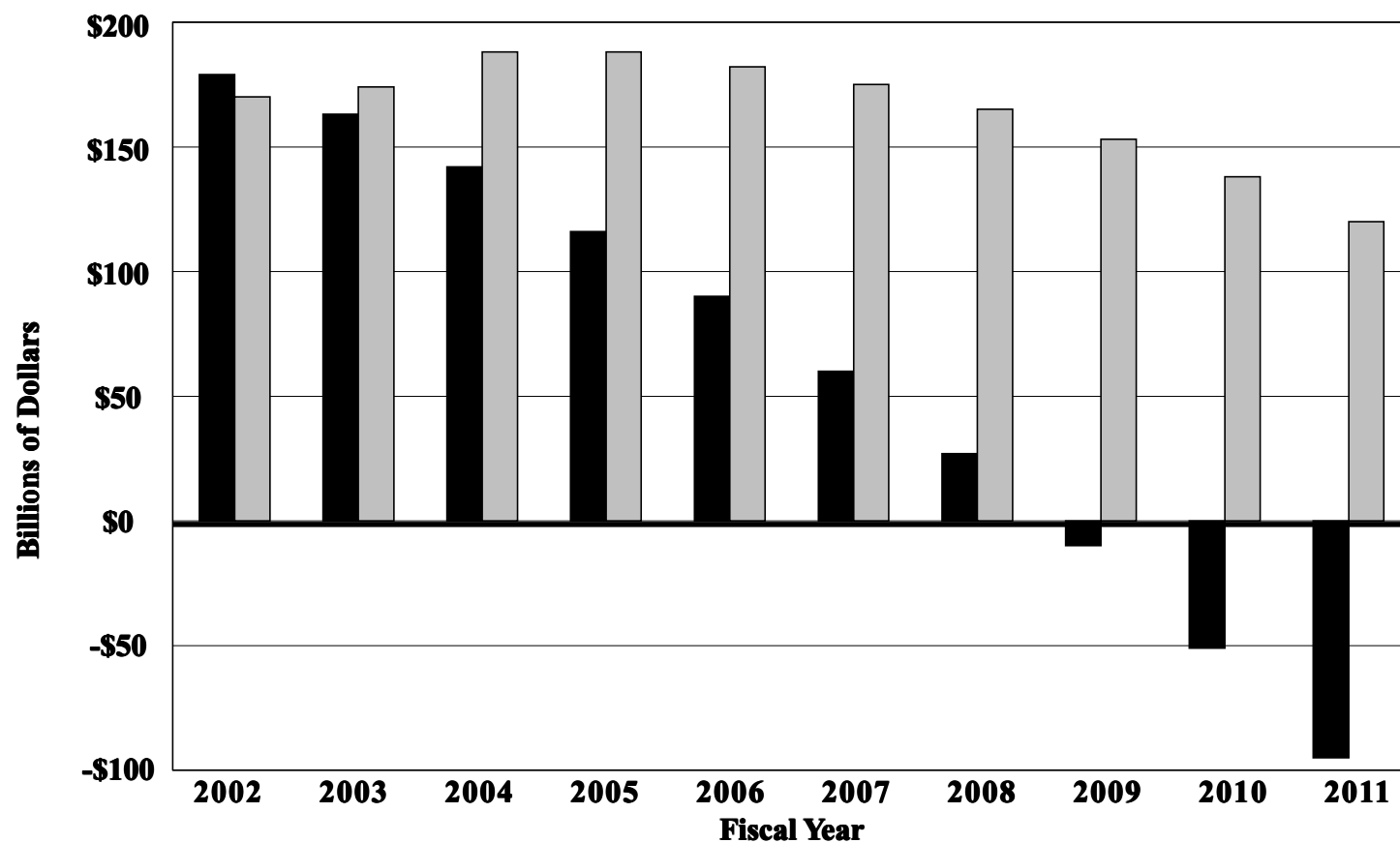


**Testimony of Robert L. Bixby
Executive Director of
The Concord Coalition**

**Senate Finance Committee
Subcommittee on Long-Term Growth and Debt Reduction
February 14, 2002**

Change in Net Interest Payments Since Last January

Fiscal Years 2002-2011



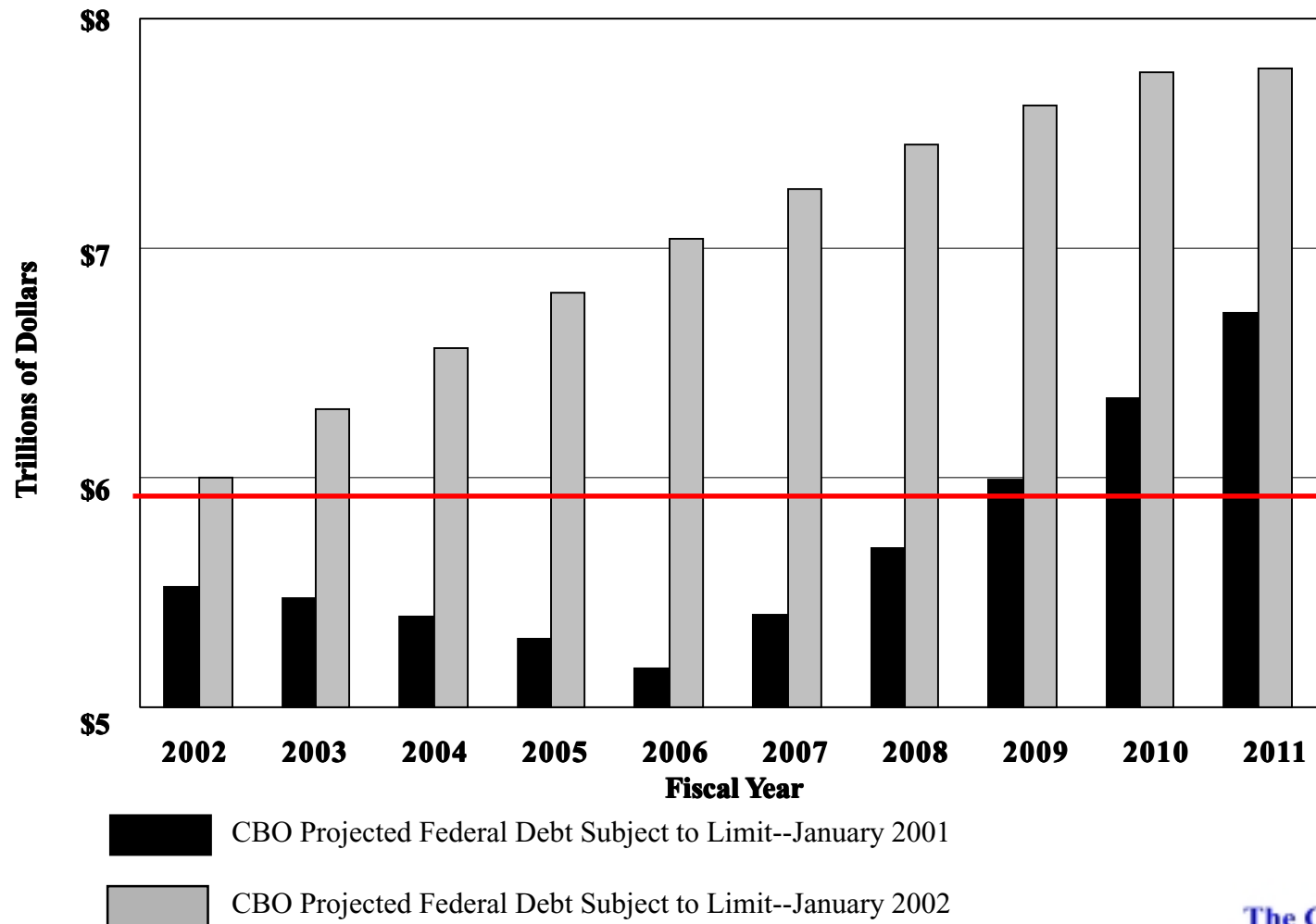
■ CBO Projected Interest Costs--January 2001: \$622 billion
■ CBO Projected Interest Costs--January 2002: \$1,653 billion

Source: CBO



Change in Debt Subject to Limit Since Last January

Fiscal Years 2002-2011



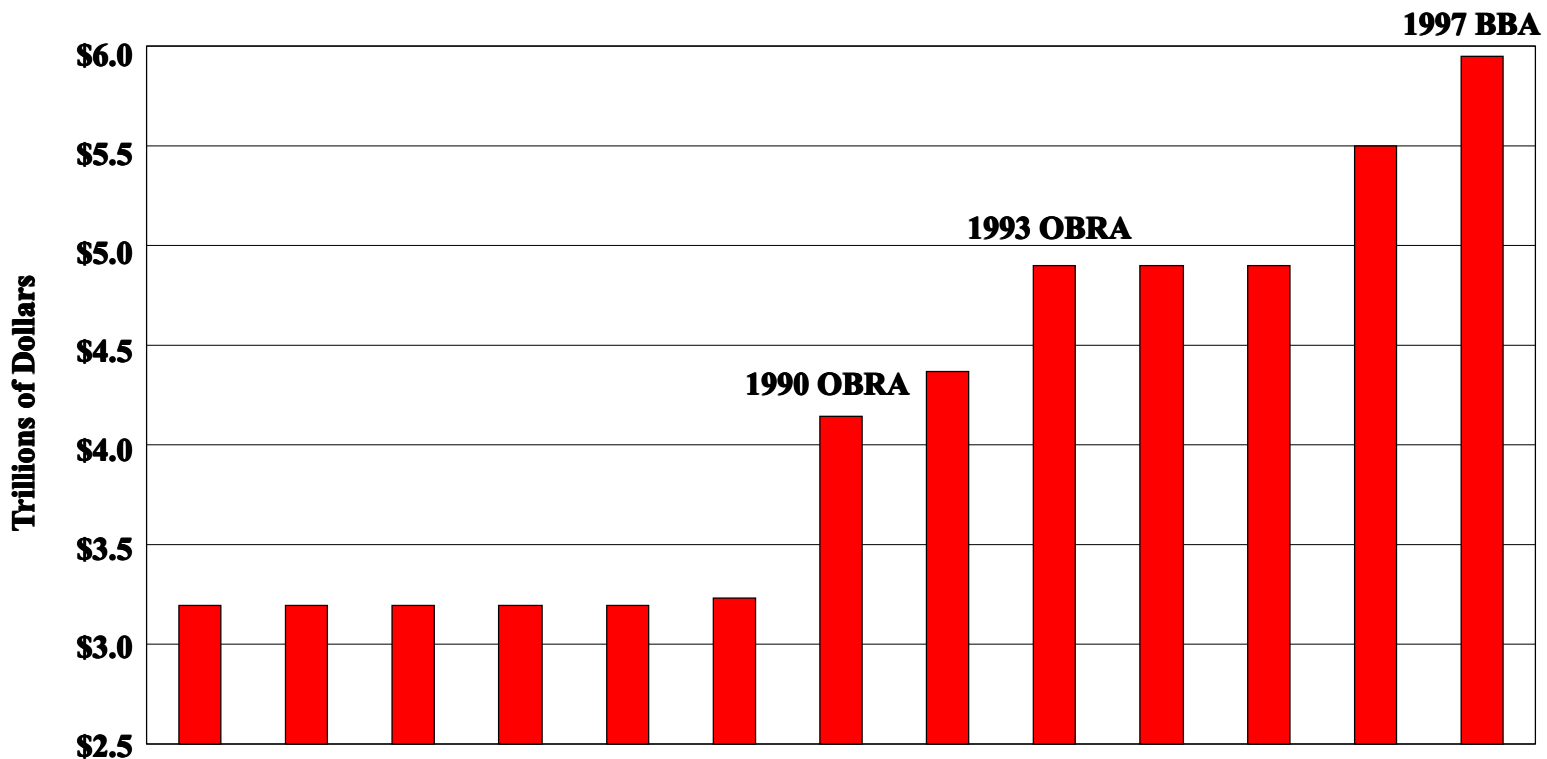
Source: CBO

— Statutory Debt Limit: \$5.95 trillion



Changes in the Statutory Limits on Federal Debt Since 1990

Major Increases Usually Accompany Budget Agreements



1990 OBRA raised debt limit by \$915 billion to: \$4.145 trillion

1993 OBRA raised debt limit by \$530 billion to: \$4.9 trillion

1997 BBA raised debt limit by \$450 billion to: \$5.95 trillion

Source: OMB

